

LIBERIA'S PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Liberia on the completion of its second peaceful and democratic election. On November 15th, Liberia's National Elections Commission certified President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of the Unity Party as the President of the Republic of Liberia. The November 15 declaration followed a Presidential run-off election on November 8, which was required by the Liberian Constitution as no candidate received a majority of votes in the first round held on October 11.

I was encouraged by reports that the Liberian election process was deemed free, fair and transparent by some 4,800 domestic and international observers. The role that the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, the Carter Center and other institutions played was crucial in providing additional confidence in the process. I applaud the UN Mission in Liberia for providing a safe and secure environment in which voters were able to cast their ballots without incident on both October 11 and November 8. Furthermore, I applaud the Liberian people on demonstrating their commitment to peace and democracy.

I congratulate President Johnson Sirleaf and the newly elected members of the National Legislature, and I hope that they will work together to continue along the path to progress, peace, and prosperity that Liberia has already taken. At the same time, I express my deep regret over the decision of the Congress for Democratic Change, CDC, to boycott the run-off election based upon unproven allegations that the election process was fraudulent. I concur in the sentiments expressed by ECOWAS, the AU and the Carter Center that the CDC boycott deprived the people of Liberia of a dynamic vote in the runoff and created a climate of intimidation and fear in the country.

I was saddened by the violent protest that erupted on November 7, the eve of Liberia's runoff election, and I mourn the lives lost on that day, which will remain a shadow cast over an otherwise peaceful and democratic process. I'm pleased by President Johnson Sirleaf's efforts to set up an independent commission to investigate the incident and bring those responsible to justice. I firmly believe that reconciliation is essential to create a sense of national unity and purpose, and I call upon all political party leaders and their supporters to recognize the certified results of the Presidential and Legislative contests.

The United States will hold accountable any and all political leaders and their supporters seeking to undermine Liberia's peace and democracy by all means available, including the possible use of multilateral and bilateral sanctions.

It is now more important than ever that the United States continue to work with Liberia's elected leaders and stand by the Liberian people as they move to complete their journey into post-conflict success, and sustain the path

toward social stability and economic prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR.
BENJAMIN HICKMANN WRIGHT SR.**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Benjamin Hickman Wright, Senior who passed away on April 12, 2011. His beloved family is holding a memorial service on November 23, 2011. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Wright exemplified the highest traits of fidelity to his country and family in a manner truly deserving of this great honor. Mr. Wright was an individual who came from a lineage that strove for excellence in all facets of their work. Over a lifetime of achievement and service to others, Mr. Wright embodied the ideals of hard work and dedication to his community, which is the bedrock of American values.

Mr. Wright was an individual who realized significant achievements throughout his life. This can be traced back to his family who attained advanced degrees in the early twentieth century. In fact Mr. Wright's grandfather and great uncle were the first African American physicians in Ohio. Mr. Wright's father was a top ranking life insurance salesman who also gave back to his community by teaching sharecroppers how to read, write and calculate the price of their produce and goods. After receiving a stellar education, Mr. Wright served in the armed forces during World War II in the European Theater as a First Class Petty Officer of the United States Navy. He was recently honored for his service with an Armed Forces Citation signed by President Obama.

From one generation to the next, it is evident that the Wright family has attained significant accomplishments and remained committed to excellence in their work. Mr. Wright maintained and advanced this work through his many accomplishments including his service in the military followed by his service as an Economic Advisor in Monrovia, Liberia. Mr. Wright would go on to become a business owner and an employee in several fortune 500 companies. By the 1980's he founded a nationwide coalition of civic and fraternal associations that served to empower and up lift others.

His commitment to serving his community and country and his accomplishments benefited and enhanced the lives of many citizens over several decades. His memory and work will be remembered by a grateful nation and I am pleased to add my voice as his family celebrates his legacy.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF RIALTO'S
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to join me in celebrating the City of

Rialto's 100th Birthday. Rialto has a long, rich history, and has grown into a city that is home to over 100,000 people. I have been fortunate enough to raise my family in Rialto. I am proud to live in this city, represent these people, and join them in celebrating this momentous event.

Ancient artifacts and traces of a village indicate that Native Americans inhabited this area between 1500 AD and 1800 AD. What happened to these people and settlements still remains a mystery. In 1769, the King of Spain awarded areas of Rialto as land grants to Spanish Dons. Following the cession of California to the United States, Mormons became the next wave of settlers in the San Bernardino valley. By 1854 some of these early pioneers settled in Rialto, constructing ranches and farms in their wake. This period gave birth to the international distribution of Muscat Grapes and the building of the oldest structure in Rialto.

The Semi Tropic Land and Water Company purchased 25,000 acres of land in 1887. The company helped develop and christen the town site. Hattie Merrill, daughter of the former Governor of Iowa, Samuel Merrill, named the town site after the Rialto Bridge in Venice, Italy. Within the same year, a railroad connector line was constructed in Rialto. Towns were located every 2,600 yards along the line, connecting Rialto to towns from San Bernardino to Pasadena. That year alone over 25 new towns were built. During the same year, a group of Methodists settled in Rialto. They originally came to build a college, but soon began to grow citrus in the beautiful climate of Rialto. Their farms quickly expanded to acres of citrus groves. In 1888, the Brooke School was built to educate the growing population. Many credit this group of Methodists for developing the Town of Rialto.

By the late 1800s, Rialto became home to a blacksmith, lumber yard, and a cement pipe manufacturing company. The first citrus association was established, and the first citrus packing house was built. Rialto's reputation for beautiful homes with shaded drives began to grow, and so did the population. In 1891, the Rialto School District was formed, and in 1907 the Chamber of Commerce was established. Over the next four years, the population grew to the point that the town supported 40 businesses and a newspaper. In 1911, Rialto was officially incorporated as a City.

For many years thereafter, the City of Rialto continued to grow, shipping citrus to every area in the country. Today those train tracks still run through the City, but are used on a much smaller scale—the area has matured and modernized. Throughout these changes, Rialto remains a great place to raise a family. My children grew up attending school and playing sports in the area. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve this community both at the local and national level. My son, Joe Baca, Jr. still lives in Rialto and has the opportunity to serve our community as a City Council Member. On behalf of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Councilman Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer, we would like to join our neighbors in celebrating Rialto's 100th birthday.

HONORING NATIONAL ADOPTION
DAY

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, as a parent of two wonderful adopted children and a co-chairman of the newly established bi-partisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Care, I rise today in recognition of the 12th Annual National Adoption Day which is tomorrow November 19.

As we look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving, it is important to keep in mind there are over 400,000 children in foster care across the nation who will not be spending the holiday with a permanent family. Of these children, nearly 107,000 of them are eligible for adoption and waiting for a family.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, over 19,000 children are in Pennsylvania's foster care system. About 3,300 of these children await adoption.

Each year about 28,000 youth age out of foster care having never been adopted.

I want to issue a challenge those of us here in Washington and around the country to make it easier for families to adopt children.

Our goal must be a loving, caring and safe permanent home for each of these children. For this to happen, courts, judges, attorneys, adoption professionals, child welfare agencies, religious and civic organizations needs to work together to finalize adoptions and find homes for children in foster care.

National adoption Day is an essential part of this effort.

For the past 12 years, National Adoption Day has been a nationwide attempt to raise awareness of the children in foster care waiting to find permanent homes and loving families. It is commemorated across the country with numerous events held each year to finalize the adoptions of children in foster care, and to celebrate all families who adopt.

The result is that since 2000, more than 35,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day. This year nearly 5,000 adoptions will be finalized in through these special events.

That is why I am gratified to be speaking in recognition National Adoption Day. I also want to thank foster and adoptive families across the country because of the important role that they play in the well-being of our children.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CANON
CITY NOON LIONS IN HONOR OF
THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 90th Anniversary of the Cañon City Noon Lions Club in my district in Colorado. For Ninety years, the Noon Lions have been dedicated to providing aid and assistance to the needy and less fortunate in their community. During the Lions Club International Campaign Sight First II, the Noon Lions were one of five Model Clubs within the

state of Colorado raising over \$32,000 for the program. This program helps under-privileged children from all over the world get much needed eye exams and medications. Last December, the Noon Lions raised over \$3,000 in a "Cash for Christmas" raffle in order to pay for appointments and surgery for a young girl with Amblyopic eye condition and a man with cataracts.

The Cañon City Noon Lions are dedicated to serving their community and the wider world. Ever since they started in the basement of a local YMCA building on November 22, 1921, the Noon Lions have tirelessly devoted their time, effort, and energy to fighting blindness, combating hunger, and aiding seniors and the disabled. With the introduction of the "Sight First" program the Noon Lions have screened the eyes of more than 5,000 children within their community and surrounding area. The Noon Lions look back at their legacy of community service with an eye on the future and on the service they will be a part of in strengthening their community. I am proud of the work they have done my district and I offer them my most sincere congratulations on their 90th anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FAMILY ALLIANCE
FOR VETERANS OF AMERICA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional work that the Family Alliance for Veterans of America has been doing on behalf of our veterans, and to congratulate them on the recent launch of their cutting-edge website.

FAVA's Chairman, Rhonda Jordal, has been a tireless advocate for veterans and military families for numerous years. Because of her commitment, FAVA has been at the forefront of providing information, advocacy and support to our veterans and their families in their most crucial time of need. FAVA's nationwide assistance is aimed at helping with any difficult situation veterans or their families find themselves in. This program has found a niche that allows them to assist veterans through their own practices, as well as assisting government agencies in being more attentive and responsive to the needs of America's heroes.

FAVA's goal is to become a comprehensive repository of information that can assist veterans all over the globe, and the launch of their new website is a crucial step in that direction. At fava.westcare.com, families of veterans, and veterans themselves, can read and share their own stories regarding unexpected difficulties and experiences that they have faced. The message that FAVA wishes to convey to every veteran and their family is simple—you are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to represent Iowa veterans in the U.S. House of Representatives. No one has done more to secure the freedom enjoyed by every single American than our veterans and those currently serving in the armed services. It goes without saying that we must collectively do everything we can to deliver on the benefits and support our veterans deserve, and I am proud

to honor the Family Alliance for Veterans of America for supporting our veterans in such a tangible and meaningful way. Thank you.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE LUKENS
BAND

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Lukens Band of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

Founded in 1911 by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lukens Huston, the first meeting of the Lukens Mission Band brought together fifteen youngsters with little or no musical ability. Today, they number in excess of 40 musicians. The Band performs about 60 times per year and has four subgroups known as the Lukens Marching Band, Lukens Concert Band, Lukens German Band and Lukens Small Ensemble. In its many forms, the Band plays for a wide variety of venues such as community concerts, the Coatesville VA Hospital, senior centers, retirement communities, corporate events and community celebrations.

In 1994, the Band incorporated as The Lukens Band, to reflect a broader scope as a non-profit public organization, the end of support by the Lukens Steel Company, and the start of support from The Huston Foundation and The Stewart Huston Charitable Trust.

Mr. Speaker, in light of its years of service to the community and outstanding entertainment and musical accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing The Lukens Band in celebration of its 100 year anniversary.

HONORING ALEXANDER SCOTT
MASON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Scott Mason. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alexander has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Scott Mason for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.